

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NDJAME 00979 231537Z

44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGR-05 AID-05 /090 W

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P R 231230Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9444

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 0979

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, CD

SUBJ: THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

REF: N'DJAMENA 956

BEGIN SUMMARY:

1. SOMEWHAT HEEDLESS OF HISTORICAL PRECEDENT, NEW CHADIAN REGIME HAS TAKEN TO ITSELF REBRIQUE OF "SECOND REPUBLIC." IN FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE EVENING APRIL 19 AND IN FIRST PUBLIC SPEECHES APRIL 20, NEW CHADIAN MILITARY RULERS HAVE PROCEEDED CAUTIOUSLY AND HAVE THUS FAR REFRAINED FROM MAKING GRANDIOSE PLEDGES OR PROMISES. NEW REGIME UNWILLING YET TAKE PUBLIC POSITION ON MOST OUTSTANDING ISSUES, BUT TO NE FOR MOMENT SEEMS MODERATE. SMC MEMBER MAJOR KAMOUGUE GAVE HIS VERSION OF COUP ON APRIL 20, WHILE SPECULATION CONTINUES IN N'DJAMENA REGARDING WHAT ROLE FOREIGN POWERS, PARTICULARLY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NDJAME 00979 231537Z

FRENCH, MAY HAVE PLAYED IN COUP DEVELOPMENTS. THUS FAR,

HOWEVER, THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO DRAW FIRM CONCLUSIONS ON LATTER QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS CONFERENCE OF SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC) PRESIDENT MALLOUM ON EVENING APRIL 19 WAS FOLLOWED SUNDAY, APRIL 20, BY APPARENTLY IMPROMPTU SPEECHES MADE AT N'DJAMENA'S INDEPENDENCE SQUARE TO CROWD OF DEMONSTRATORS BY MALLOUM AND THREE OTHER SMC MEMBERS, MAJOR KAMOUGUE, CAPTAIN ZAKARIA, AND CAPTAIN ROASNGAR. ZAKARIA, NORTHERNER FROM ATI, REFERRED TO REBEL ACTIVITIES AGAINST TMOBALBAYE REGIME SINCE 1963, IN 1965, AND 1968, ARREST OF MALLOUM IN 1973, AND FINAL STRAW OF 1975 ACCUSATIONS AGAINST AND ARRESTS OF MILITARY WHICH LED TO APRIL 13 COUP. CAPTAIN ROASNGAR LIMITED HIS REMARKS TO APPRECIATION FOR SUPPORT OF PUBLIC. MAJOR KAMOUGUE, GENERALLY CREDITED WITH BEING BRAINS BEHIND COUP AND ONE OF MOST CAPABLE AND AMBITIOUS OFFICERS, TOLD ASSEMBLED CROWD THAT TOMBALBAYE HAD PLANNED TO ARREST HIM, IN FACE OF WHICH GROUP OFFICERS FROM ALL PARTS CHAD, INCLUDING MONGO, AM-TIMAM, ABECHÉ, SARH, BONGOR, AND LOUMIA DECIDED TO MAKE "SUCIDE" ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW TOMBALBAYE. COUP ORIGINALLY SET FOR NIGHT OF APRIL 11-12, BUT POSTPONED BECAUSE OF VISIT OF MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT DADDA. SAID THAT DURING NIGHT OF APRIL 12-13 UNITS FROM AM-TIMAM AND MONGO JOINED UNITS FROM BOKORO FOR DESCENT ON CAPITAL, WHERE THEY WERE JOINED (PRESUMABLY AFTER FIGHTING BEGAN) BY UNITS FROM N'DJAMENA.

3. PRESIDENT MALLOUM DEALT IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS WITH QUESTIONS OF POLICY OF NEW REGIME, SPECIFICALLY:

A. INTERNATIONAL

(A.) RECOGNITION: ONLY LIBYA OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BUT "WE AWAIT OTHERS," ALTHOUGH RECOGNITION OR NON-RECOGNITION NOT PRESSING PROBLEM.

(B.) RELATIONS WITH FRANCE: AS EARLIER STATED, REGIME WILL LIVE UP TO ITS ACCORDS, ALTHOUGH UNDERSTOOD THAT REVISIONS MAY BE MADE IN INTERESTS BOTH PARTIES. THIS, TOO, HOWEVER, NOT PRIORITY QUESTION AND MANY OTHER PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED FIRST.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NDJAME 00979 231537Z

(C.) BARDAI HOSTAGES: INSURGENTS HAVE BEEN IN REVOLT AGAINST UNJUST GOVERNMENT WHICH NOW OVERTHROWN. QUESTION FATE HOSTAGES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO REBELS.

B. INTERNAL

(A.) PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT: WILL BE ESTABLISHED SHORTLY. WILL BE MIXED CIVILIAN/MILITARY.

(B.) POLITICAL REFUGEES: "FOR MOMENT, ALL WHO WISH TO RETURN MAY BE ASSURED NO ONE WILL OPPOSE THEIR RETURN." BUT ALL SHOULD REMEMBER THAT SMC HAS BANNED ALL POLITICAL PARTIES.

(C.) COMPOSITION NATIONAL STUDY COMMISSIONS: "WE KNOW THERE ARE TWO-FACED ON PEOPLE ON THEM;" MEMBERS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS OF MINISTERIAL RANK.

(C.) AUTHENTICITY: ASKED WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE AUTHENTICITY POLICY, MALLOUM REPLIED: "CHAD WILL REMAIN A LAY COUNTRY. HOWEVER, WE ENCOURAGE THE (DEVELOPMENT OF) THE PERSON OF THE CHADIAN MAN." RADIO CHAD, MEANWHILE, BROADCAST MESSAGES SUPPORT FROM ASSEMBLEE CHRETIEN HAILING END COMPULSORY TRIBAL INITIATIONS. (YONDOH).

(E.) REBELS: "I WIS TO MAKE OFFICIAL CALL TO OUR BROTHERS OF THE REBELLION TO RETURN TO THE FOLD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION."

C. ECONOMY

(A.) PLANNING: ABSENCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN LED CHAD TO CHAOS.

(B.) TOMBALBAYE'S OPERATION AGRICULTURE: FINANCIAL REVENUES FROM COTTON ESSENTIAL TO REDRESS ECONOMIC STIUATION. SMC HAS THEREFORE DECIDED TO "AUGMENT IF NOT DOUBLE" COTTON PRODUCTION AND APPEALS TO ALL TO WORK TOWARD GOAL. LOCAL OFFICIALS SHOULD NONETHELESS SEE THAT ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO CROPS IS REASONABLE AND THAT SIMILAR EFFORTS ARE MADE FOR FOOD PRODUCTION. (TOMBALBAYE HAD CALLED FOR 500 PERCENT INCREASE COTTON PRODUCTION IN ONE YEAR.)

4. OTHER MATTERS WHICH MALLOUM TOOK QUESTIONS ON AT PRESS CONFERENCE, INCLUDING POLITICAL DETAINEES, CORRUPTION, ROLE OF PRESS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NDJAME 00979 231537Z

AND RADIO, FOREIGN ADVISERS IN KEY POSITIONS, ETC., WERE SAID TO STILL BE UNDER STUDY.

5. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS APRIL 21, SMC ANNOUNCED THAT "CHEFS SUPERIEURES" (TRADITIONAL LEADERS WHO IN SOUTH CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH TRIBAL INITIATIONS) OF SARH, MOUNDOU, KOUMRA, AND THREE OTHER AREAS WERE DISMISSED AS THEY HAD BEEN FALSELY INSTALLED BY TOMBALBAYE. PROPERLY INSTALLED CHIEFS, INCLUDING SULTANS, WOULD BE CONTINUED. (KOUMRA CHEF SUPERIEURE WAS TOMBALBAYE'S BROTHER WHO DIED IN N'DJAMENA IN EARLY DAYS COUP UNDER UNCLEAR CIRCUMSTANCES.) NEW MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES PROVISIONALLY APPOINTED N'DJAMENA TO SERVE UNTIL "MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS" HELD.

6. COMMENT: MAJOR KAMOUGUE'S REPORT THAT MILITARY UNITS FROM AS FAR AWAY AS AM-TIMAM AND MONGO WERE ORIGINAL LEADERS

OF COUP HAVE STRENGTHENED BELIEFS OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE COUP COULD NOT HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE AND THEREFORE COMPLICITY OF FRENCH. RELIABLE EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, INDICATES THAT FRENCH MILITARY REMAINED WELL IN DARK CONSIDERABLY AFTER DAWN ON DAY OF COUP. MORE REFINED THEORISTS NOTE REPUTED RESTORATION OF PRIVATE FRENCH NATIONAL CAMILLE GOUVERNNEC TO POSITIONS CHIEF NATIONAL GUARD AND DIRECTOR CENTER COORDINATION (INTELLIGENCE), AND SEE GOUVERNNEC AS EMINENCE GRISE OF COUP. FINALLY, THERE ARE THOSE WHO ACCEPT APPROXIMATION KAMOUQUE VERSION AS LARGELY ACCURATE AND CONSIDER THAT FRENCH MILITARY AND CIVIL AUTHORITIES CAUGHT AS MUCH BY SURPRISE AS WAS TOMBALBAYE. SEEMS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT IT REMAINS TOO EARLY TO MAKE DEFINITIVE JUDGMENT ON QUESTION WHICH WILL HAVE IMPORTANT ROLE IN FUTURE CHADIAN/FRENCH RELATIONS.

POLITICS AND POLICIES OF SMC THUS FAR APPEAR MODERATE AND CAUTIOUS. APPEARS TO BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT, HOWEVER COUP MAY HAVE BEEN PLANNED, NO ONE GAVE MUCH THOUGHT AS TO WHAT WOULD COME AFTERWARDS. ALTHOUGH MALLOUM SAID AT PRESS CONFERENCE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM NEW REGIME IS "DISCIPLINE," REAL PROBLEM IS HOW TO MEET PAYROLLS AND KEEP GOVERNMENT MORE OR LESS FINANCIALLY SOLVENT FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE. FOR THIS, MEMBERS TOMBALBAYE ESTABLISHMENT INDISPENSABLE AT MOMENT. LACK SUCCESS IN MEETING THESE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS COULD WELL LEAD MORE RADICAL POLICIES IN FUTURE.

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PAGE 05 NDJAME 00979 231537Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, RECOGNITION, POLITICAL SITUATION, MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NDJAME00979
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750142-0488
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750425/aaaaawvb.tel
Line Count: 201
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 N'DJAMENA 956
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006